

locations on the north face, the fires burning in this area apparently vented on other faces as a result of the pressure distribution created by the ambient wind, in these cases most likely from the south face. Recall that large areas of the south face on these floors were opened during the collapse of WTC 1. Interior pathways from the north side of WTC 7 to the south must have been available on these floors.

Multiple open windows can be seen on the 12th floor in Figure 5–132, reaching as far west as window 12-53C. The window glass between Columns 52 and 53 is mostly intact. The only area where substantial flames are visible is near Column 50. Comparison with Figure 5–130 shows that the fires on the 12th floor had not spread further west during the short period between the images, but that the fires between Columns 51 and 54 had died down considerably. There is no indication of blackening on the façade above the open windows, indicating that the nearby fires had vented elsewhere.

Closer inspection of Figure 5–132 reveals that while the glass in window 12-55C was still in place, it had apparently cracked. This is an early indication that fire was nearby. Another video clip taken from the same location a short while later shows that windows 12-55B and 12-55C had opened and flames filled both windows. After a brief lull, the fires burning on the north side of the 12th floor continued their spread to the west. As noted earlier, the fires on this floor seemed to occasionally skip some closed windows and appear further west. This suggests that instead of spreading continuously along the north edge, the fires were penetrating a series of offices and then growing to the point where windows were broken. Each of these office fires was apparently somewhat independent, which is consistent with the floor plan shown in Figure 3–4.

There are no indications of fire activity below the 7th floor at the time of Figure 5–132. On the west side of the north face open windows are only present on the 7th, 8th, and 12th floors. It is not possible to see windows above the 8th floor on the west face due to the heavy smoke.

An oblique view looking along the north face of WTC 7 is shown in Figure 5–134. It is a frame taken from another video clip shot from inside the lobby of 123 Barclay Street. The image is estimated to have been recorded roughly two minutes later than the frame shown in Figure 5–132, based on clip lengths, open windows, and fire distributions. Using the appearance of the face, the identifiable windows, and the locations of columns visible behind open windows it was possible to assign the indicated column locations. Careful comparison of fire locations and open window locations seen in this image with those in Figure 5–128, Figure 5–130, and Figure 5–131 shows that this video frame was taken very shortly after the frame shown in Figure 5–128. A time of 3:44 p.m. with an uncertainty of 4 min has been assigned.

Figure 5–132 and Figure 5–134 together show that every window on the 7th floor between Column 47 and the western edge of the north face was broken out at this time. No flames are visible on this floor in either image. As shown by Figure 5–127, fire had spread as far east as window 7-47A as early as 3:13 p.m. No further eastward fire spread was observed over the following 45 min, and the fires appeared to have died down.

On the 8th floor, heavy flames are visible between Columns 47 and 51 in Figure 5–134. Comparison with Figure 5–130, which was taken somewhere between 2 min to 10 min earlier, indicates that the flaming area had not moved further east during the intervening time, but that substantial fires, present earlier between Columns 51 and 54, had died down. Several windows that earlier had glass in place between Columns 49 and 51 were open at the later time. Even though no fire is evident to the east of Column 47 in Figure 5–134, there are indications that window glass in several windows to the east of this point had